

REMARKS

Claims 1, 15, 22 and 43-46 were pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 15, 22 and 43-46 have been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice and new claims 47 to 52 have been added. Support of new claim 47 can be found inter alia in the specification as originally filed, at pages 6 to 13. Support of new claim 49 can be found inter alia in the specification as originally filed, at pages 14 to 20. Support of new claim 51 can be found inter alia in the specification as originally filed, at pages 21 to 26. Support of new claims 48, 50 and 52 can be found inter alia in the specification as originally filed, at page 70, lines 1 to 20. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that this amendment be entered.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 101

On page 2 of the June 13, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 45 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. §101. The Examiner alleged that claims 45 and 46 recite a process without setting forth any steps involved in the method/process. By this amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 45 and 46, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants respectfully assert that the claims have been cancelled for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the present application, and without disclaimer or prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation and/or divisional application(s).

On page 2 of the June 13, 2003 Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1, 43 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §101, statutory double patenting, for allegedly claiming the same invention as

that of claims 1, 22 and 23 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,225,330. By this amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 43 and 44, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants respectfully assert that the claims have been cancelled for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the present application, and without disclaimer or prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation and/or divisional application(s).

On page 3 of the June 13, 2003 Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 15, 43 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §101, statutory double patenting, for allegedly claiming the same invention as that of claims 1, 15 and 16 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,214,853. By this amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 15, 43 and 44, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants respectfully assert that the claims have been cancelled for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the present application, and without disclaimer or prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation and/or divisional application(s).

On page 3 of the June 13, 2003 Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 22, 43 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §101, statutory double patenting, for allegedly claiming the same invention as that of claims 1, 20 and 21 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,222,040. By this amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 22, 43 and 44, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants respectfully assert that the claims have been cancelled for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the present application, and without disclaimer or prejudice to Applicants' right to

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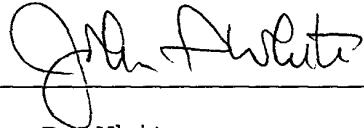
pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation and/or divisional application(s).

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, if any fee is required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

John P. White 9/12/03
John P. White Date
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